



JUDICIAL PROFILE

Karen O'Connor was appointed a Superior Court Judge in December 1999 and is currently assigned to the Family Court Department. The majority of her legal expertise was developed during her 13 years as a prosecutor with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. During her tenure as a prosecutor, she tried a variety of cases involving homicide, child abuse, adult abuse, repeat offenders and vehicular crimes. Judge O'Connor spent more than five years managing teams of specialized lawyers assigned to prosecute juvenile matters and domestic violence cases. In 1997 she was appointed chief of what the Family Violence Bureau. Her work was recognized in 1998, when she was named Major Crimes Division Attorney of the Year. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, she worked in private practice, specializing in civil and municipal law as an associate with the law firm of Martinez & Curtis.

Judge O'Connor has shared her expertise of criminal law by teaching at a number of legal seminars and conferences on child abuse investigations, domestic violence, stalking, homicide and gang crimes. She is a member of the Arizona Supreme Court Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence in the Courts as well as the Domestic Violence Protocol Committee. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Illinois State University in 1979 and earned her law degree from John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 1984.

